

NASA WHITE SANDS TEST FACILITY
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO

NASA White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) in Las Cruces, New Mexico, tests and evaluates spacecraft materials, components, and propulsion systems. The ISO 14001-certified facility reduced emissions of ozone-depleting chemicals (ODCs) and hazardous waste. In the next few years, the facility will expand on its ODC emissions reductions accomplishments and also target energy use, solid waste, and total materials use. The facility's materials use accomplishments are already under way through its participation in EPA's Project XL. Through this project, the company implemented a Web-based information management and regulatory reporting system.

AT A GLANCE

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| Industry Sector: | Aerospace and Defense |
| Business: | Tests spacecraft materials, components, and propulsion systems |
| Facility Employees: | 500-1,000 |
| Accomplishments: | Reduced hazardous waste Reduced air emissions |
| 2003 Commitments: | Reduce energy use Reduce air emissions Reduce solid waste Reduce materials use |
| Address: | PO Box 20 Las Cruces, NM 88004 |
| Web site: | www.wstf.nasa.gov |

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Past Accomplishments

WSTF has demonstrated a strong commitment to a healthier environment. Since 1997, the facility has:

- **Reduced emissions of ozone-depleting chemicals (ODCs)** by 47% through replacing CFC-113 with HFE-7100, switching to vapor degreasers that use less solvent, and shutting down vapor degreasers when they are not needed.
- **Reduced hazardous waste** (cleaning solvent) through reuse. The facility now sends spent solvent not suitable for cleaning spacecraft components to another company for use in cleaning drums.

Future Commitments

WSTF will expand its past accomplishments and tackle new challenges. By 2003, the company will:

- **Reduce energy use** by targeting high-energy consumption areas for alternative and/or more efficient technologies.
- **Reduce ODC emissions** by 24% through avoiding CFC-113 presence and use in equipment, operating equipment only when needed, and procuring waivers for CFC-113 in NASA specifications.¹
- **Reduce solid waste** by recovering spent brass cartridges used at the facility's firing range for recycling.

¹ This is a 1-year commitment due to the R&D nature of the project.

- **Reduce material use** by reducing paper consumption through implementing electronic reporting.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

NASA White Sands Test Facility keeps the public informed about its environmental activities through newspaper and radio notices, public meetings, and postings on its Web site <www.wstf.nasa.gov>.